

Minutes of the Gifford Community Council Meeting held 13th March 2017 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall

Present	Craig McLachlan (Chair) David Griffiths Alex Renton	Jo Allen Eric Thomson	Nick Morgan Adam White
In Attendance	Cllr Ludovic Broun-Lindsay Davie Rutherford	Cllr Tom Trotter 2 members of the public	Cllr Ruth Currie
Apologies	Andrew Hamilton PC Lynn Black	Wendy Ferguson	Cllr John McMillan

1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 13th February 2017 were agreed as correct. Proposed AW, seconded DG.

2 Matters Arising

- 2.1 Craig will ensure that an extra clean for the gullies in Gifford is proposed at the next Area Partnership meeting, which is on 23rd March. **ACTION: CM**
- 2.2 Craig will contact the Courier to ask why they didn't publish the letter sent by the Community Council in response to the anonymous letter about blocked paths. It was agreed that it is now too late for the letter to appear in the paper, but it was agreed that they should be asked why they publish an un-founded anonymous letter, but not a considered response. **ACTION: CM**
- 2.3 Councillor Ludovic Broun-Lindsay wanted it noted that it is a requirement for receiving a grant that a fence be erected to protect the young trees. Once they are mature enough to be safe from deer damage then the fence is no longer required.
- 2.4 Jo has produced a poster about dog fouling which has been put up in various venues around the village.

3 Community Payback Scheme

- 3.1 Davie Rutherford explained about the community payback scheme. There are three supervisors that work with Davie, who take out groups of up to 5 offenders.
- 3.2 The work placements are for people who live in East Lothian who have been convicted for a variety of crimes. They will be required to do between 20 - 300 hours of work over a period of three months to a year. There is supervision given and particular needs are taken account of. Other interventions may be offered to the placements as well as community payback.
- 3.3 There are currently 95 people undergoing unpaid work, 28 of these are also under the supervision of a social worker.
- 3.4 Examples of work undertaken include landscaping, path building and car park repairs. Placements may also be required to work within Council departments or not for profit organisations. One stipulation, though, is that they must not do work that takes work away from paid workers.

- 3.5 Community payback is only given to suitable people taking into account the nature of the offence. Examples are theft, domestic issues or benefit fraud.
- 3.6 If the Community Council has any work that they think would be suitable for the community payback scheme, contact Davie directly.
- 3.7 Davie was thanked for attending the meeting and informing us about the scheme.

4 External Reports

4.1 Police: The police report had been received by e-mail.

- 4.1.1 Due to ongoing complaints regarding speeding in Duns Road, this is now a CAPP priority and will be given attention and speed checks whenever possible – so far in March PC's Bairden and Black have conducted high visibility Pro Laser Speed checks at both Duns Road and Edinburgh Road. To date no tickets have been issued for speeding but several formal warnings have been given to drivers.
- 4.1.2 On 24/02/17 police were contacted as a black Ford Ka vehicle had lost control and spun off the road at the School of Furniture. No injuries to the driver and no damage.
- 4.1.3 On 14/02/17 police were contacted by the manager of Co-op, Duns Road, to report a 'ringing the changes' scam where a male has entered the shop and purchased £1 lottery ticket with a £20 note. Afterwards the male then began to confuse the manager by swapping the bank note and coins and then asking for change and differing denominations of notes. Male left with the ticket and £20 and then the manager realised the till was down. This is similar to an incident at the Co-op in Haddington. Enquiry ongoing.
- 4.1.4 On 03/03/17 police were contacted due to a suspicious white 7¹/₂ tonne lorry driving around Gifford and Colstoun selling goods from the rear. Police attended in the area and vehicle not found. No further calls with regards this lorry.
- 4.1.5 Jo reported that the police had been doing door to door enquiries in The Wynd regarding an assault that had taken place last month. She was concerned that this was the second disturbance in the street in the last three months. (See ELC Report below)
- 4.1.6 The next CAPP meeting will be on 20th March 2017 at 6.30pm in the Town House, Haddington.

4.2 East Lothian Council:

- 4.2.1 Councillor Trotter encouraged people to use the Council's ASBO Team if there are issues starting to arise in the village. Hopefully things could then be resolved long before the police have to be involved. The contact there is Kenny Black.
- 4.2.2 Jo asked if in disturbances in The Wynd should be reported. It was agreed that these were the sort of incident that the ASBO Team may be able to help with.
- 4.2.3 Dave said that a member of the public had reported kids kicking a football against the houses in Walden Place. Dave will suggest that this person contacts the ASBO Team. **ACTION: DG**
- 4.2.4 Ruth Currie informed the meeting that because of the Boundary Commission changes there will now be two candidates per party for each ward. This is because the larger ward will now have four Councillors instead of the previous three.

5 Internal Reports

5.1 Roads, Lighting and Signs:

- 5.1.1 The one pothole that was reported has been filled up.

- 5.1.2 Concerns were raised about the amount of mud on the roads around Yester Mains. There has been slurry running down the road there, which should be cleared up by the farmer. The incident of the slurry getting into the Gifford Water is still with the Procurator Fiscal.
- 5.1.3 There have been a number of incidents of fly tipping at the side of the roads around Gifford.
- 5.1.4 Dave has reported to the Council that the gully under the vennel near the school needs to be cleared. It is in the programme to be done.
- 5.1.5 New signs have been put up on Station Road to warn motorists that the bridge is narrow. Apparently it has been strengthened, so the weight limit signs do not apply any longer.

5.2 Planning: There was only one planning application in the area in the last month:

- 5.2.1 Giffordbank Cottage. Alterations and extension. This is a resubmission. It was decided that the Community Council should write to Planning with a letter of support for this application.

ACTION: ET

- 5.2.2 Andrew had sent in an e-mail with a question from a member of the public asking why the Community Council considers all of the planning applications in the area, even if they are no objections to the application. It is the statutory role of the Community Council to express the views of the local community to the local authority. Community planning will become more important in the future. The Community Council is now a respected voice. Craig will contact Andrew about this.

ACTION: CM

5.3 Finance: The current balance is £6,500. Otherwise there is nothing to report.

5.4 Area Partnership:

- 5.4.1 The hasn't been a meeting since the last Community Council meeting. The next meeting is on 23rd March.
- 5.4.2 Despite the ward boundaries changing the boundaries of the Area Partnerships will remain the same.
- 5.4.3 The Area Partnership budgets for next year will be the same as the first two years, but won't include the £50,000 Roads budget.

5.5 Community Woodland:

- 5.5.1 The quiz at the school went well and there was a lot of interest.
- 5.5.2 Gift aid has now been finalised with HMRC, so the group can now start collecting the pledges.
- 5.5.3 Interview were held last weekend for the post of Project Officer.

6 Correspondence:

- 6.1 The spring edition of the Scotways Newsletter has been received.

7 AOCB

- 7.1 Sandy Stewart from Yester Estate reported that the Goblin Ha' is in a perilous state and the estate are not keen to encourage people to go there. They have put up signs warning people of the dangers, but the previous signs have been ripped down.
- 7.2 Nick has received an e-mail from Humble Community Council informing us of a Hustings they are organising for the candidates for the Council elections. This will take place on 12th April. They have asked for anyone who would like to attend to register. Dave will put a poster up in the notice board with details.

- 7.3 Nick had previously circulated an e-mail about the Ironman event which will happen on 2nd July. Jo has put a note on facebook and there is interest in running a feed station. This may be done jointly by a few groups including the Duke of Edinburgh and Yester school fundraising committee. The group manning the station will receive payment, which can be shared. This will be a big event with 2,000 participants. Jo will get back to the organisers to let them know who will be manning the station and to ask them to ensure that the toilets and local facilities are signed and that adequate bins are provided. **ACTION: JA**
- 7.4 Dave said that he had seen a notice in the coffee shop about a cycle race in the village the following weekend. No one on the Community Council has been contacted about this or was aware of the event.
- 8 Date of next meeting - 7:30 on April 10th 2017 in the Todrick Room, Gifford Village Hall.**